



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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INTERIOR AWARDS CONTRACT TO IMPROVE FISH SPAWNING CONDITIONS IN THE AMERICAN RIVER BELOW FOLSOM DAM IN CALIFORNIA

Award of a Bureau of Reclamation contract for modifying the outlet works of Folsom Dam and installing facilities which will improve fish spawning conditions in the American River in California was announced today by Under Secretary of the Interior James K. Carr.

Folsom Dam, a feature of the Central Valley Federal Reclamation Project near Folsom, California, is about seven miles upstream from the project's built Nimbus Dam and Fish Hatchery. The hatchery, which has a capacity of 30 million fish eggs, was constructed to replace the natural spawning areas of salmon and steelhead trout blocked off by Folsom and Nimbus Dams on the American River.

The contract was awarded to Herrick Iron Works, of Hayward, California, on its bid of \$275,416, the lowest of four bids received under Specifications DC-5622. The contractor will furnish water temperature-control shutters and appurtenant facilities after making necessary modifications in the outlet works of Folsom Dam.

"This work is scheduled to be completed in January 1962," Under Secretary Carr said. "Thereafter, it will be possible to control the temperature of water released from Folsom Dam by regulating the depth from which it is released from Folsom Reservoir."

Commissioner of Reclamation Floyd E. Dominy said, "At present, many eggs from early fall salmon must be taken from Nimbus Fish Hatchery to cooler water for hatching because the water released from Folsom Dam is too warm. In recent years, the California State Department of Fish and Game, which operates Nimbus Fish Hatchery for the Bureau of Reclamation, has transported salmon to a temporary hatchery on Bear River where they have been spawned and held until late-season temperatures cooled Folsom Lake."

The shutters will make it possible to release water from the lake's upper strata and conserve the cold water at the bottom for release in early fall when the salmon run arrives at Nimbus.

Besides eliminating the need for the temporary Bear River Hatchery and improving the operations of Nimbus Fish Hatchery, Mr. Dominy pointed out, the cooler water will markedly improve natural spawning conditions in the river.

"In 1959 and 1960, the salmon runs in the American River equalled the largest runs observed in more than a decade," Mr. Dominy noted. "We hope that with the installation of the shutters, runs of 35,000 to 40,000 fish, observed in the river during the early 1940's, will be restored. This modification of the Folsom Dam outlet works was developed as a result of joint study of the water temperature problem by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife.

Second low bidder for the Folsom Dam outlet modifications was the R. C. Mahon Co., of Torrance, California, with an offer of \$326,282. Third low was a bid of \$335,990 from the Eichleay Corporation, of Santa Clara, California.

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